REMARKS

Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,268,247 to Freze ("Freze"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,326,342 to Schregenberger ("Schregenberger"). Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,549,362 to Haried ("Haried"), in view of Schregenberger. Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over German Patent No. DE 2220425 to Heissmeeier ("Heissmeeier"), in view of Schregenberger.

Freze describes a dryer that includes a burner 36 and a damper 30 that controls the exhaust of gas through a discharge passage 38. During the drying mode, the damper 30 may be opened "very slightly" in order to maintain relative humidity of the drying gas. See Freze, column 5, lines 16-22 and Fig 2.

Haried describes a fabric dryer with a heater chamber 40, and fresh air and exhaust dampers 34 and 36 that are linked by a mechanism. The dampers are exhausted simultaneously to open or close both dampers by the same amount, such that the exhaust air and the fresh air are of the same volume. See Haried, column 5, lines 39-56 and Fig. 1.

Heissmeeier describes a dryer with an exhaust damper 9 and a fresh air damper 10. Heismeeier further shows that the fresh air damper is open when the exhaust damper is open.

Schregenberger describes an oven that includes a fume incinerator 14, a pressure sensing device 25 that measures the pressure of hot gas flowing from the fume incinerator, and a damper 26 which diverts some of the hot gas from the fume incinerator to ambient. See Schregenberger,

column 4, lines 5-10. The sensor actuates operation of the damper if the gas pressure varies from the desired norm. See Schregenberger, column 4, lines 19-26.

Independent claims 6 recites "measuring, by a sensor, at least one of a pressure and a pressure profile in an air stream of the process air circuit in an area where the drying air enters the drying chamber." Similarly, independent claim 8 recites "a pressure sensor disposed in an area where the drying air enters the drying chamber and configured to measure at least one of a pressure and a pressure profile in the drying chamber." It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references teach or suggest measuring a pressure or pressure profile in an area where drying air enters a drying chamber or in the drying chamber, as recited. None of Freze, Haried or Heissmeeier describe any pressure sensor or measuring of pressure at all. Regarding Schregenberger, that reference merely describes a pressure sensor 25 which measures pressure of gas flowing from a fume incinerator 14 upstream of a blower 12 which is itself upstream of an oven 5. See Schregenberger, column 4, lines 5-10, and Fig. 1. Since it is upstream of the blower 12, the pressure sensor 25 cannot measure a pressure "where the gas enters the chamber 8," contrary to the Examiner's contention (see Office Action at page 3, lines 5-6). Thus, any combination of Freze, Haried, Heissemeeier and Schregenberger, even if proper, could not render claims 6, 8 or their respective dependent claims 7 and 9-10 obvious.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to measure pressure or a pressure profile in an area where the drying air enters the drying chamber or in the drying chamber, as recited in claims 6 and 8. One of ordinary skill in the art would have no reason to include the pressure sensor described in Schregenberger to measure pressure in the recited location in the dryers of Freze, Haried or Heissemeeier. The pressure sensor of Schregenberger is used to measure the pressure of flow from a fume incinerator of an oven. See Schregenberger, column 4, lines 5-10. Schregenberger has nothing to do with laundry dryers nor the problem of preventing laundry damage by overheating of the dryer due to blocking the passage of air through the drying drum. See present Specification at paragraphs [0004] and [0005]. Indeed, Schregenberger conveys a continuous web or element 6 through the oven 5 in a continuous process in which the continuous web or element 6 cannot block a passage of air through the oven. See

Schregenberger, column 3, lines 9-13. Nor, as noted above, does Schregenberger measure a pressure "in an area where drying air enters the drying chamber" or "in a drying chamber," as recited in the claims. Because Schregenberger describes a completely different location for a pressure sensor that measures a completely different pressure and does not contemplate the problem addressed by the present invention, it is respectfully submitted that there would have been no reason to combine Schregenberger with Freze, Haried, or Heissesmeeier in the manner proposed by the Examiner. Contrary to the Examiner's statement that such a combination would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art "in order to promote air flow efficiency," it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references teach or suggest that the use of a pressure sensor would promote air flow efficiency, in a dryer or otherwise.

With specific regard to the Examiner's statement that "applicant has not disclosed that the claimed sensor location solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular reason which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill in the art," applicants respectfully disagree. As set forth at the end of paragraph [0004] of the present specification, conventional dryers can become overheated when articles therein block the passage of air through the drying drum. The present invention solves this problem by measuring the pressure in the dryer, as recited, or using the recited pressure sensor. As a result, the circulated air can be reduced in order to once again achieve proper operation without a blocked passage. None of the cited references recognize this problem or solve the problem. In contrast, the claimed method and apparatus solve the problem and do so in a new non-obvious way.

For at least all of the foregoing reasons, the cited references cannot render independent claims 6 or 8 or their respective dependent claims 7 and 9-10 obvious.

With further regard to independent claim 6, the claim also recites "controlling the flow dividing device . . . to continue a drying process at a reduced volumetric flow rate of the drying air through the drying chamber." The Office Action has provided no indication that this feature is taught or suggested by any of the references. Indeed, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references teach or suggest continuing a drying process at a reduced volumetric flow rate. For

this additional reason, it is respectfully submitted that any combination of the cited references, to the extent proper, could not render claim 6 or its dependent claim 7 obvious.

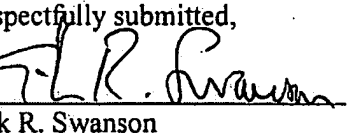
Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on respective combinations of Frieze, Haried and Heisseemeir with Schregenberger is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: January, 4, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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